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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 20,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SAL 01,
SAH 03,AID 30,R&R 01,SS 35,GPM 03,SP 02,SC 01,L 03,H 02,INR 05,
NSC 10,P 04,/121 W

O R 31:2:PZ AUG 67 ZFF1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5768
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4022
CINCPAC
AMCMBASSY VIENTIANE 2346
AMCONSUL DANANG 846

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izgbery DATE 12/27/81
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DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASED ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES MADE FIRST JOINT CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN SAIGON MORNING AUG 31. MEETING TOOK PLACE IN SQUARE ADJACENT TO NGUYEN TRI PHUONG MARKET IN CHO LON. SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WERE VERY POOR. NOT LONG AFTER SESSION BEGAN CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 2000 PERSONS BROKE THROUGH MAKESHIFT [illegible] BARRIERS SEPARATING THEM FROM CANDIDATES AND UNRULY CHILDREN SWARMED OVER GRANDSTAND INITIALLY RESERVED FOR CANDIDATES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. CROWD WAS COMPOSED MOSTLY OF YOUNG

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MEN, MANY OF THEM OBVIOUSLY PARTIAL TO ONE CANDIDATE OR ANOTHER, AND THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE HECKLING THROUGHOUT. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TRAN VAN HUONG AND NGUYEN VAN LOC, REPRESENTING

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THIEU/KY SLATE, RECEIVED THE MOST HARASSMENT. GENERALLY CANDIDATES ACQUITED THEMSLEVES WELL IN WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE REAL FACE-TO-FACE CONFRONTATION WITH AUDIDENCE AND THERE WERE NO UNTOLD INCIDENTS, ALTHOUGH ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MEETING WAS INTERRUPTED BY MASTER OF CEREMONIES WITH APPEALS TO THE CROWD TO MOVE BACK FROM CANDIDATES' MICROPHONE.

2. CANDIDATES SPOKE IN ORDER DETERMINED BY DRAWING OF LOTS. SPEAKING FIRST, TRAN VAN LY RESTATED PLATFORM AND TOOK VIRTUALLY SAME LINE AS IN PART CAMPAIGN APPEARANCES.

3. HOANG CO BINH SPOKE OF HIS RECORD AS SAIGON CITY COUNCILLOR, NOTED THAT MANY OF HIS PLANS AS COUNCILLOR NOT YET REALIZED AND SAID HE HOPED TO COMPLETE HIS PROGRAM IF ELECTED PRESIDENT. BINH ATTACKED NEW BUDDHIST CHARTER, PROMISED TO RELEASE BUDDHIST PRISONERS IN I CORPS IF ELECTED AND ALSO PLEDGED TO ALLOW EXILED GENERALS TO RETURN. BINH ARGUED AGAINST INCREASING TROOP LEVELS OF ARVN ALTHOUGH HE DID COME IN FAVOR OF "REORGANIZING AND VITALIZING ARMED FORCES". BINH ENDED

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 4569/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIALUSE PRESENTATION WITH BLAST AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH NFL. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, BINH SAID HE THOUGH THERE WOULD BE EFFORTS BY GVN TO RIG ELECTION BUT HE FELT IT HIS DUTY TO SEE RACE THROUGH ANWAY. ASKED IF HE THOUGH THERE WOULD BE DISTRUBANCES AFTER ELECTION, BINH SAID THAT WOULD DEPEND ON NEW GOVERNMENT. OLD LADY CHEWING BETELNUT ASKED BINH WHY SHE HADN'T SEEN HIM IN HER DISTRICT SINCE HIS ELECTION TO SAIGON CITY COUNCIL. CROWD APPLAUDED QUESTION VIGOROUSLY. BINH REPLIED THAT HE HAD WORKED HARD EVEN THOUGH HE HADN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH EVERYONE IN HIS CONSTITUENCY.

4. TY QUOC SINH, SPEAKING FOR RUNNING MATEPHAM HUY CO, REPEATED PEACE THROUGH VICTORY THEME. SINH ALSO PROPOSED THAT REGULAR RVNAF FORCES BE REDUCED IN SIZE TO VOLUNTEER, MOBILE, STRIKE FORCE OF 20,000 TROOPS WITH CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN REGIONAL FORCES. HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE RF DIVISION IN EVERY PROVINCE, ARGUING THAT THIS WOULD REDUCE DESERTIONS AND DRAFT DODGING.

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5. TRAN VAN HUONG SPOKE NEXT. HUONG AND TRUYEN WERE VISIBLY DISCOMFITED AS CROWD PRESSED IN CLOSE TO THEM. HUONG SPOKE SOFTLY, THANKED AUDIENCE FOR OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH THEM AND ASSURED THEM HE HAD NOT COME TO MAKE WILD

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PROMISES. HE PROCEEDED TO DEPLORE RISING COST OF LIVING AND POOR SECURITY CONDITIONS IN SAIGON. HE ATTRIBUTED POOR SECURITY TO DECLINE IN SOCIAL DISCIPLINE. HE CITED RECENT INCIDENT WHERE VC CADRE HAD BEEN ABLE TO OPENLY DISSEMINATE PROPAGANDA IN CHO LON THEATRE. "I DON'T KNOW WHAT THINGS ARE LIKE IN CHICAGO", HUONG ADDED, "BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT SAIGON IS REALLY DANGEROUS". HUONG CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL THAT VOTERS BE CAREFUL WHEN CASTING BALLOTS AND DISREGARD BRIBES AND OTHER PRESSURES. MAI THO TRUYEN THEN SPOKE BRIEFLY. HE URGED AUDIENCE TO BE ENERGETIC - "ENERGETIC IN DEMANDING YOUR VOTERS CARDS, ENERGETIC IN DEFENDING YOUR INTERESTS."

6. HECKLERS THEN BEGAN TO MOVE IN. THERE WERE SEVERAL SCUFFLES FOR CONTROL OF MICROPHONE RESERVED FOR QUESTIONERS. NUMBER OF HOSTILE QUESTIONS SHOUTED AT HUONG, SUCH AS WHETHER HE SECRETLY OPPOSED US PRESSURE IN VN, WHETHER HE FAVORED ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE COCHIN CHINESE STATE AND IF HE HADN'T OPPRESSED BUDDHISTS AND INSULTED MONKS WHEN HE WAS PRIME MINISTER. WHEN CROWD CALMED SOMEWHAT, HUONG ANSWERED SOME OF LESS OFFENSIVE QUESTIONS. ON SUBJECT OF BUDDHISTS, HUONG SAID THAT ON JAN 22, 1965, A NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS "CLAIMING" TO BE MONKS STARTED TO DESCEND ON US EMBASSY FROM KY VIEN

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PAGODA. WE HAD TO [illegible] ORDER", HUONG SAID. DEFENDING MEASURES HE TOOK AGAINST [illegible] AGITATORS DURING THAT PERIOD.

7. NGUYEN HOA HIEP, VP RUNNING MATE NGUYEN THE TRUYEN MADE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION, HANDLING CROWD WELL. TRUYEN DREW SOME APPLAUSE WHEN IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION HE SAID THAT

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HO CHI MINH REFUSES TO TALK WITH GVN BECAUSE PRIME MINISTER IS TOO YOUNG.

8. NEITHER THIEU NOR KY APPEARED PERSONALLY. SPEAKING FOR THE SLATE, NGUYEN VAN LOC EXPLAINED THAT THIEU WAS PRESIDING OVER CEREMONY IN THU DUC AND KY ON OFFICIAL TRIP TUNHATRANG. NOT SATISFIED BY EXPLANATION, CROWD JEERED LOC FOR SEVERAL MINUTES AFTER WHICH LOC REMARKED THAT HE ACCEPTED SUCH BEHAVIOUR IN DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT. HE ADDED THAT HIS SLATE WELCOMED CRITICISM PROVIDED IT IS JUSTIFIABLE AND MADE IN CONSTRUCTIVE WAY. DURING QUESTION PERIOD LOC WAS ASKED WHY IF GOVERNMENT CLAIMS IT IS DETERMINED TO ROOT OUR CORRUPTION, IT HAS DONE NOTHING ABOUT THE SAIGON PORT. LOC EXPLAINED THAT INVESTIGATION HAVE BEEN MADE AND SOME PROGRESS REGISTERED. EVERYTHING CAN'T BE DONE IN A DAY AND IT IS EASY TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT IF YOU'RE ON THE OUTSIDE. LOC MAINTAINED THAT

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GOOD WILL OF GOVERNMENT AS IMPORTANT AS ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. LOC WAS THEN ASKED WHAT HE THOUGH OF CHARGES THAT THIEU-KY SLATE ENGAGED IN UNFAIR CAMPAIGN TACTICS AND ISSUING MORE THAN ONE VOTING CARD TO MILITARY PERSONNEL. LOC REPLIED THAT WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME OVERZEALOUS OFFICIALS IN THE COUNTRY SIDE AND ISOLATED INSTANCES OF PRESSURE TACTICS BY GVN OFFICIALS, THIS DEFINITELY NOT POLICY OF THIEU-KY. AS FOR QUESTION OF MULTIPLE VOTING CARDS FOR MILITARY, LOC INVITED THOSE MAKING CHARGES TO PRODUCE THE EVIDENCE.

9. DR DAN MADE HUMOROUS, MARKETING PRESENTATION: "THERE ARE ONLY THREE MORE DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION. ASK YOUR SELF FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO VERY FAR TO DECIDE. JUST TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE CITY TO SEE IF YOU STILL TRUST THE PRESENT REGIME. IF YOU DO, THEN VOTE FOR TICKET NO 9. (THIEU-KY)."
BUNKER

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ACTION EA-19

INFO NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 DODE-00 USIE-00 NSAE-00 CCO-00 SAM-01
SAH-03 AID-30 SS-35 GPM-03 SP-02 SC-01 L-03 H-02 INR-07 NSC-10
P-04 RSC-01 RSR-01 /122 W

O R 3. P 0Z AUG 67 ZFF1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5789
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4823
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2347
AMCONSUL DANANG 847

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

IF NOT, THEN VOTE FOR ANOTHER TICKET. EVERY TIME YOU GO INTO THE STREET YOU SEE POT HOLES, YOU HAVE TO WAIT FOR TRANSPORTATION, AND WHEN THE BUS COMES, IT IS OVERCROWDED, YOU TAKE A TAXI OR A PEDICAB, THE COST IS PROHIBITIVE. THERE ARE NO PUBLIC LAVATORIES AND YET IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO URINATE IN THE STREET. I SUGGEST YOU JUST URINATE IN YOUR PANTS." MATTERS SUCH AS THE FOREGOING ARE TRIVIAL ONES BUT THEY REFLECT FACT, DAN MAINTAINED, THAT GVN HAS NO PROGRAM. SELF-

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OWNERSHIP AND LAND REFORM PROGRAMS OF GVN INADEQUATE. 30 PERCENT OF PEOPLE IN SAIGON DO NOT OWN THEIR OWN HOMES AND BEST PROPERTIES ARE IN POSSESSION OF FOREIGNERS.

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10. DAN THEN LAUNCHED INTO CRITICISM OF CONSCRIPTION SYSTEM. "IS THERE ANY COUNTRY WHERE YOUTH APPREHENDED ON THE STREETS AS THEY ARE IN VIETNAM," PARENTS DON'T EVAN KNOW WHETHER SONE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR HAVE GONE OFF WITH VIET CONG." AS FOR CORRUPTING, DAN ASKED CROWD RHETORICALLY, IF IT AGREED WITH SYSTEM WHEREBY A POLICEMEN GOES TO JAUL FOR RECEIVING .00 PIASTER BRIBE WHILE A GENERAL IS EXILED TO HONG KONG FOR STEALING MILLIONS.

11. DAN CONCULDED WITH A FEW WORKDS ON SUBJECT OF GARBAGE IN SAIGON. "IT PILES HIGHER AND HIGHER EVERY DAY," HE SAID, AND AS GARBAGE PILES GROW, CONFIDENCE IN GVN DECLINES. DAN TOOK GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR SPENDING 300 MILLION PIEASTERS TO REMODEL INDEPENDENCE PALACE AND YET SO LITTLE ON IMPROVEMENT IN SLUM AREAS. AFTER HIS PRESENTATION DAN FIELDED

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A NUMBER OF HOSTILE QUESTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE PUT TO HIM DURING PREVIOUS RALLIES.

12. NGUYEN DINH QUAT GAVE HIS USUAL SPEECH AND DID NOT GENERATE ANY PARTICULAR REACTION FROM CROWD.

13. CROWD LISTENED TO TRUONG DIH DZU AND RUNNING-MATE TRAN VAN CHIEU ATTENTIVELY- STANDING ON CHAIRS WHICH THEY HAD PLACED IN MIDST OF CROWD, DZU AND CHIEU TOOK TURNS IN REVIEWING PLATFORM, POSITION ON PEACE ISSUE AND NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES. DZU CRITIZED CONSCRIPTION SYSTEM, PROMISED TO RELEASE NATIONALIST POLITICAL PRISONERS IF ELECTED AND SPOKE OF INVITING EXILED GENERALS GO RETURN TO VIETNAM.

14. CROWD BEGAN TO DWINDLE RAPIDLY WITH NEXT SPEAKER, REPRESENTATIVE OF VU HONG KHANH. A BRIEF SHOWER DISPERSED MOST OF REMAINING CROWD AND FINAL SPEAKER, HA THUC KY, ADDRESSED SEVERAL HUNDRED DIE-HARDS, MOSTLY HIS OWN SUPPORTERS. KY SPOKE BRIEFLY REVIEWNING PLATFORM AND PROMISING THAT IF ELECRED HE WOULD RESIGN IN ONE YEAR IF PROGRAM NOT REALIZED. KY THEN FIELDED SEVERAL QUESTIONS, ALL QUITE OBVIOUSLY PLANTED BY HIS OWN PARTY MEMBERS. JUNKER

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